

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 06581 302204Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 347

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6581

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EXDIS

FOR ARA, D, P, AND L ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV SHUM CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION: SICK LIST

1. THE SANTIAGO PRESS REPORTS THAT MANUEL CONTRERAS RETURNED TO THE MILITARY HOSPITAL AUGUST 27 TO CONTINUE MEDICAL TESTS. HE HAD EARLIER BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL AUGUST 20/23. WHILE THE REPEATED PRESENCE OF CONTRERAS IN THE HOSPITAL WHERE ARMANDO FERNANDEZ AND PEDRO ESPINOZA ARE SERVING THEIR PROVISIONAL DETENTIONS RAISES SUSPICION, HE APPARENTLY DOES HAVE A KIDNEY PROBLEM.

2. SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT ISRAEL BORQUEZ IS ON A 20-DAY MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM HIS JOB. THE LEAVE BEGAN AUGUST 21 AND WILL RUN TO APPROXIMATELY SEPTEMBER 13. THE PRESS DESCRIBES HIS PROBLEM AS A SPINAL HERNIA. "EL MERCURIO" SAYS THAT IF BORQUEZ HAS NOT RETURNED TO HIS OFFICE BY THE TIME THE LETELIER CASE EXTRADITION REQUESTS ARRIVE THEY WILL INITIALLY BE HANDLED BY THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE COURT, JOSE MARIE EYZAGUIRRE, BUT THAT BORQUEZ WOULD ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY UPON HIS RETURN.

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3. EYZAGUIRRE IS THE ACTING PRESIDENT BY VIRTUE OF BEING THE MOST SENIOR OF THE OTHER 12 JUDGES ON THE COURT. HE WAS, OF COURSE, SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT FROM MAY 1975 UNTIL MAY 1978. EYZAGUIRRE TOLD THE DCM AUGUST 25 THAT HE HOPED BORQUEZ WOULD GET WELL SOON.
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Message Attributes

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